Current Event #1

Marissa Reif

EDEC-304

Holy Family University

Current Event #1

This article entitled, “After Sandy: The Future of Boardwalks,” discusses the current issues surrounding the reconstruction of the New Jersey shore boardwalks. After Hurricane Sandy tore through the beaches on October 29, 2012, politicians and engineers have been debating endlessly on how to rebuild the shore and prevent damage from future storms. Although quite costly, estimating to be about four million dollar per beach town, the cost counteracts the state’s $38 billion summer tourist industry (Shea, 2012).

The founder and director of a well known Coastal Research Center suggested replacing the boardwalk with a concrete support structure beneath sturdy decking. Others, such as a professor of ocean engineering from the Steven’s Institute of Technology, believe that the creation of a fifteen foot tall sand dune was the solution to the problem. This multimillion-dollar effort serves as a barrier between the ocean and the boardwalk to prevent further destruction from storms. Lastly, New Jersey has looked at beach resorts across the world to see how they protect against natural disasters. The idea of creating a boardwalk one hundred feet above sea level has also been discussed (Shea, 2012).

I feel as though this article clearly depicts the different attitudes and ideas concerning the reconstruction of the New Jersey shore. As an avid lover of the New Jersey beaches, I was devastated by the destruction inflicted by Hurricane Sandy. Some of my favorite places and memories from my younger years center around the beaches that endured the most damage. I have been interested in hearing how the state of New Jersey plans to rebuild the beaches and boardwalks that are loved by families all over the country.

This article encompasses many of the ten themes of Social Studies. However, the article is most directly related to the theme People, Places, and Environment. This specific theme talks about the student’s awareness of the issues of the world around them. There are social, economic, and civil issues surrounding the shore reconstruction. Incorporating this article into a Social Studies lesson would ensure that students understand the importance of making informed and critical decisions about their environment.

References

Shea, R. (2012, November 9). After sandy: the future of boardwalks. *National Geographic*,

Retrieved from <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/11/121110-superstorm-sandy-boardwalks-new-jersey-shore-science-nation/>.